

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a wheel cover including a body portion having an outer surface and an inner surface opposed across the body portion from the outer surface, and at least one elongated tubularly-shaped extension having a proximal portion connected to the body portion, and a distal portion extending in a direction away from the inner surface of the body portion; and

at least one connector member having a proximal end snappably coupled with the distal end of the extension of the wheel cover, and a distal end adapted to releasably couple with a vehicle wheel, wherein a majority of the at least one connector member extends axially inwardly from the extension.

2. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the extension of the wheel cover comprises a first material and the connector member comprises a second material that is different from the first material.

3. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of extensions circumferentially spaced about the wheel cover.

4. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 3, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of connector members, and wherein the plurality of connector members are connected to one another via a plurality of structural members.

5. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 4, wherein the connector members and the structural members cooperate to form a ring-shape.

6. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the connector members are axially aligned with the extensions of the cover member.

7. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 5, wherein the connector members and the structural members are integrally formed.

8. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the distal portion of the at least one extension includes an irregularity spaced along a length thereof.

9. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of longitudinally extending fingers.

10. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 9, wherein each of the fingers of the at least one extension includes a tab member spaced along a length thereof.

11. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one connector member includes a lip that cooperates with the tab of the at least one extension to snappably couple the at least one connector member to the wheel cover.

12. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 10, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of support legs interspaced with the plurality of fingers, and wherein the support legs support the at least one connector member thereon.

13. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 12, wherein the at least one connector member includes an inner surface and an outer surface, and wherein the plurality of fingers are adapted to abut the outer surface of the at least one connector member, and the plurality of legs are adapted to abut the inner surface of the at least one connector member.

14. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers, and wherein each finger includes a tab spaced along a length thereof adapted to releasably engage a lug nut associated with the vehicle wheel.

15. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension is integrally formed with the wheel cover.

16. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one extension has a substantially circular cross-sectional geometry.

17. (currently amended) A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a wheel cover including a body portion having an outer surface and an inner surface opposed across the body portion from the outer surface, and at least one extension having a proximal portion connected to the body portion, a distal portion extending in a direction away from the inner surface of the body portion, and an end wall; and

at least one connector member having an outer surface, an inner surface having at least one irregularity spaced along a length thereof, and a proximal end coupled with the distal end of the at least one extension of the wheel cover such that the at least one connector member abuts the end wall of the at least one extension and a majority of the at least one connector member extends axially inwardly from the extension, wherein the

irregularity is adapted to engage a vehicle wheel, thereby coupling the wheel cover with the vehicle wheel, and wherein the at least one extension does not support the outer surface of the at least one connector member.

18. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

19. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 18, wherein the at least one irregularity includes a tab extending inwardly from each finger, and wherein each tab is adapted to engage a lug nut associated with the vehicle wheel.

20. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 19, wherein each finger includes an inwardly extending support wall adapted to abut the lug nut associated with vehicle wheel, and wherein the support walls cooperate with the tabs of the fingers to prevent axially shifting of the wheel cover when coupled to the vehicle wheel.

21. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 20, wherein the at least one extension includes a tubularly-shaped body portion having a centrally located longitudinally extending aperture.

22. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 21, wherein the at least one extension includes at least one support wall extending radially outward from the body portion.

23. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 22, wherein the body portion and the at least one support wall are integrally formed with the wheel cover.

24. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 23, wherein the at least one connector member includes an end wall having a mounting aperture extending therethrough, and wherein the at least one connector member is coupled with the at least one extension by a mechanical-type fastener extending through the mounting aperture of the at least one connector member and received within the body portion of the at least one extension.

25. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one extension includes a tubularly-shaped body portion having a centrally located longitudinally extending aperture.

26. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 25, wherein the at least one extension includes at least one support wall extending radially outward from the body portion.

27. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 26, wherein the body portion and the at least one support wall are integrally formed with the wheel cover.

28. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one connector member is coupled with the at least one extension by a mechanical-type fastener.

29. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of extension members circumferentially spaced about the cover member.

30. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one extension comprises a first material, and wherein the at least one connector member comprises a second material that is different than the first material.

31. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 17, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of connector members, and wherein the plurality of connector members are connected to one another via a plurality of structural members.

32. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 31, wherein the connector members and the structural members cooperate to form a ring-shape.

33. (currently amended) A wheel cover assembly, comprising:

a wheel cover including a body portion having an outer surface and an inner surface opposed across the body portion from the outer surface, and at least one extension having a proximal portion connected to the body portion, a distal portion extending in a direction away from the inner surface of the body portion, and an end wall; and

at least one connector member including a proximal portion adapted to snappably couple with the at least one extension, and a distal portion adapted to snappably couple with a vehicle wheel such that a majority of the at least one connector member extends axially inwardly from the extension.

34. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 33, wherein the distal portion includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

35. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 34, wherein each of the fingers includes a tab member located along a length thereof and adapted to engage a lug nut of the vehicle wheel.

36. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 35, wherein each finger includes an inwardly extending support wall adapted to abut the lug nut associated with vehicle wheel, and wherein the support walls cooperate with the tabs of the fingers to prevent axially shifting of the wheel cover when coupled to the vehicle wheel.

37. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 36, wherein the at least one connector member includes an end wall located between the distal portion and the proximal portion thereof.

38. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 37, wherein the proximal portion of the at least one connector member includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

39. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 38, wherein each of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector member includes at least one tab member located along a length thereof.

40. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 39, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of apertures that snappingly receive the tabs of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector member therein.

41. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 39, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of tab members that snappingly couple with the at least

one tab member of each of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector.

42. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 33, wherein the proximal portion of the at least one connector member includes a plurality of longitudinally extending flexibly resilient fingers.

43. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 42, wherein each of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector member includes at least one tab member located along a length thereof.

44. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 43, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of apertures that snappingly receive the tabs of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector member therein.

45. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 43, wherein the at least one extension includes a plurality of tab members that snappingly couple with the at least one tab member of each of the fingers of the proximal portion of the at least one connector.

46. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 33, wherein the at least one extension comprises a first material, and wherein the at least one connector member comprises a second material that is different than the first material.

47. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 33, wherein the at least one connector member includes a plurality of connector members, and wherein the plurality of connector members are connected to one another via a plurality of structural members.

Applicant : Gregory R. Hauler
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48. (withdrawn) The wheel cover assembly of claim 47, wherein the connector members and the structural members cooperate to form a ring-shape.